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FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

## Obscenity trial begins September 24

*As the Cincinnati Arts Center and its director prepare for possible convictions for displaying Robert Mapplethorpe's exhibit, local activists promise a visible presence at the proceedings*

By John Zeh

CINCINNATI — In a decision that bogged the minds of legal and artistic scholars, a municipal court judge here refused to dismiss the first obscenity charges ever against a museum and its director.

Judge F. David J. Albanese ruled Sept. 6 that jurors could convict the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) and Director Dennis Barrie if they think only one of five "homosexual, S & M" photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe violates obscenity standards.

"It's so intellectually wrong, it's incredible," said defense attorney H. Louis Sirkin.

Gay, lesbian and arts activists also criticized the decision, announcing plans for an expanded demonstration outside the courthouse at the trial's opening session on Sept. 24. "The judge has a concept of the Constitution thoroughly alien to the American experience," said veteran political activist Ted Good, who has launched an investigation into Albanese's background and possible links with influential conserva-

tives who pressed for prosecution.

First Amendment specialists expressed surprise at Albanese's ruling. "I cannot find a justification for [it] in existing law," said Fred Schauer, a professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. "I am confident that this ruling could not stand in the Supreme Court."

The United States Supreme Court has held that an allegedly obscene work must be considered "as a whole," saying that excerpts from a book, or a scene from a film, may not be separated from the work's overall content.

Albanese found that "each photograph has a separate identity...a visual and unique image permanently recorded...The focus will be each picture 'taken as a whole.'"

### 'Blatant homophobia'

The Republican judge worked as an assistant to locally renowned "smut" fighter Simon Leis, Jr., when Leis was the prosecutor in Hamilton County, where Cincinnati is located. Former U.S. Marine Leis, who is

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## Navy memo wages battle against lesbians

*A bizarre and contradictory document by a vice admiral cites lesbians as among the best professionals under Naval command, but calls for a more public purge*

By Chris Nealon

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a strangely confusing gesture, a Naval commander issued a memo advocating the removal of lesbians from service while simultaneously acknowledging that lesbians are among the top officers in the Navy. The unclassified memo, written by Vice Adm. Joseph B. Donnell, was leaked to the National Organization for Women (NOW) and to the offices of openly gay Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass.).

In the document, titled, "Equal Treatment of Male and Female Homosexuals," Donnell argued that the Navy must combat the perception that lesbians in the Navy get away with forbidden sexual activity more often than their gay male counterparts. All same-sex sexual activity is grounds for dismissal from the U.S. military.

"It's as psychotic as the policy is," said Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), commenting on the memo. "It's deeply contradictory with what's in the best interest of the Navy," Hyde told *GCN*, noting that the piece "lavishes praise" on lesbian officers "and then turns right around and says they must be ferreted out. As a taxpayer, I have to wonder why the Vice Admiral would want to drive away the best people in his command."

Donnell, who commands the Navy's sur-

face fleet in the Atlantic, asserts in the memo that "the stereotypical female homosexual in the Navy is hardworking, career-oriented, willing to put in long hours on the job and among the command's top professionals." The document nonetheless insists that "overt or covert homosexual activity impacts in a very negative way on morale."

Furthermore, Donnell indicates in the message that he is not so much concerned with the low rate of dismissal of lesbians from the Navy as he is with the perception that lesbians are not dismissed as often as gay men. In fact, the document points out that "the number of women discharged for homosexuality" from 1985 to 1989 was "roughly double that of men."

The message concludes with a warning that female sailors may be the objects of sexual harassment from their lesbian colleagues, and that the typical Navy lesbian "is more aggressive than her male counterpart, intimidating those who might turn her in to the chain of command."

Hyde called the memo's characterization of lesbian sailors as potential sexual harassers indicative of "straight male fantasies of who lesbians are — lascivious, mean, aggressive, [and] butch."

"It's like sexist homophobia," said Kate Dyer, a spokesperson for Studds' office. Dyer told *GCN* that women in the military

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IN THE CENTER:

## THE SHOW MUST GO ON

REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN  
THEATRE FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE



DAVID HANE

## 'I am your sister'

*An upcoming conference celebrating the life and work of Audre Lorde embraces a feminist and anti-racist format*

By Laura Briggs

BOSTON—Plans are underway for a grassroots-based conference exploring strategies for building a global, anti-racist feminist movement. "I Am Your Sister: Forging Global Connections Across Differences," will be a celebration of the life and work of Audre Lorde, held here October 5-8. Organized by a multi-racial group of women and men, the conference features an innovative, activist structure.

The centerpiece of the planned event is "Eye-to-Eye," a meeting of people who self-identify in similar ways, based on Lorde's essay of the same name. Lorde's essay focuses on internalized racism and self-hatred as obstacles for Black women working together. The piece will form the grounding for different constituencies (i.e., Jewish women, white lesbians, Latina women, etc.) to examine oppression as a roadblock to effective political work within "identity" communities, and, in turn, to build coalitions between groups.

"The idea is to move beyond identity politics," said organizer Angela Bowen, a Black lesbian and feminist activist. "We need to engage with one another in a nurturing way, to push out our own internal fears and oppressions, so we are not killing one another while we do the work against the enemy," she told *GCN*, adding, "Once you can disagree and still respect and love one another, you can move out beyond your immediate community with tools to meet other groups."

"Eye-to-Eye" will be among the first of many "worksessions." These multi-issue strategy meetings are structured to include several short (three minute) presentations, followed by approximately an hour and a half of discussion. "We wanted to get away from a format where three people talk for an hour and 45 minutes, and then there are 10 minutes left for discussion," said Jacqui Alexander, another conference organizer. "The important thing is people are coming with their own knowledge, and we want to give everyone a chance to speak." Alexander also told *GCN* that the prepared presentations would include media not always utilized by conferences, such as dance and poetry.

The three-day, four-evening event will also feature morning plenary sessions and nighttime cultural happenings. Lorde, who has been a consultant at every stage of the planning, will attend the conference, though she is not currently scheduled to speak or read during a plenary. "This is not a star-gazing exercise," said Bowen. "The biggest celebration is to use her work for activism."

Many of more than 80 volunteers were drawn to work on the event because of the effect of Lorde's work in their lives. "I've been doing health care for poor people for 10 years," Ann Arkin told *GCN*. "I found [Lorde's] *Cancer Journals* to be really good at looking at assumptions about what patients should be. Audre was really out there about how hard all the parts of having breast cancer were for her. She shows people what you can do by looking into yourself, and not relying on experts," she said.

Volunteer Chitra Boparkikar said that she was drawn to Lorde's work as a student. "There's something very raw about her work. It really exposes issues in our lives," she said. Boparkikar has found working on the conference exciting to her as an Indian woman, and told *GCN* it has shaped her plans for activism in the future.

"To have positive leadership from women of color is inspiring. They are role models for me. It's made me think about doing something similar in the future. Black women and Latina women have organized themselves as feminists," she said. "Indian women have not come together in that way to explore the very fabric of our lives." She added, "I have dreams of some day organizing a conference like this for Indian women."

### Application process

The most controversial question to arise during conference organizing has been about the appropriateness of asking potential participants to fill out an application form, including a paragraph describing their anti-racist and feminist work. Critics of the process dislike the implication that individuals would be judged for fitness for the conference based on their political activism. Organizers admit that the format of the

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# NEWSNOTES

## Dyke bikers take New York by storm

CAMP LAKELAND, N.Y. — Women bikers — most of whom were dykes — converged in upstate New York Aug. 23-26 for the fifth Women's Motorcycle Festival. Hailing from as far as Australia, this group exceeded previous festivals in number, bike customizing and expertise.

One member of The Fallen Idols, a Toronto women's motorcycle club, pulled into the dirt parking lot riding a bike with a leather covered gas tank and a frame custom painted with Zebra stripes. Not to be outdone, a Martha's Vineyard dyke biker cruised in on a Kawasaki with cow horns mounted on the front forks.

According to organizers Sue Slate and Gin Shear, who said about 42 bikers participated in the first motorcycle festival held in 1984, "this year there were over 200 attendees." They added that there were also "requests for information from China and Singapore."

Throughout the weekend, which was steeped in entertainment, seasoned bikers — some of whom drove from as far as San Francisco — organized group runs to local scenic spots and judged the friendly competition. The parade of women bikers through a local town brought tears to the eyes of many of the participants who had never ridden with other women before the 200-strong, women-biker procession. Added Slate and Shear, who have been the festival's organizers since its inception, "working on this event was an act of love."

Women interested in the 1992 Women's Motorcycle Festival or the publication Chrome Rose can write to WMF, 7 Lent Ave., Leroy, New York 14482.

Wickie Stamps



### Detienen activista anti-SIDA

Un miliciano soviético ordena retirarse de las cercanías del Kremlin al líder de un grupo de activistas que distribuían condones gratuitamente el jueves durante la celebración del 28vo. Congreso Comunista. El grupo también exhibía cartelones instando a los delegados al congreso a combatir el SIDA. (Asociated Press)

## 'Anti-AIDS Activist Detained'

MOSCOW — A Soviet militiaman ordered the leader of a group of activists to halt their free distribution of condoms near the Kremlin Thursday [July 12] during the Twenty-eighth Communist Party Congress. The group also exhibited posters urging Congress delegates to combat AIDS. [This item appeared in the San Juan newspaper El Vocero.]

Translated by John Kyper

## Prison authorities to reconsider gay segregation policy

FORT WORTH, Texas — After a meeting with gay activists, officials at the Tarrant County Jail have said they will reconsider a policy requiring lesbian, gay and bisexual inmates to wear colored wristbands.

Upon receiving information about the wristband rule, Thomas Bruner of the Tarrant County Gay Alliance said, "we were extremely alarmed." Bruner told GCN that members of the Alliance met with prison officials Sept. 6 to discuss the policy. At that meeting, said Bruner, officials

described the wristbands as a means of "protection" for lesbian, gay, and bisexual prisoners, who are often subject to threats and violence from homophobic inmates.

Although Bruner said activists were "somewhat relieved" to hear that the policy was not explicitly designed for the purpose of surveillance, he also said they remained concerned that the wristbands may create an "increased risk of victimization" because they identify non-heterosexual prisoners to their fellow inmates as well as to prison workers.

Prisoners are routinely asked their sexual orientation upon entering the prison. In addition, all prisoners in the jail wear wristbands: red for those who have been convicted of felony; blue for those convicted of misdemeanors; orange for those awaiting transfer to Federal prisons; and yellow for prisoners with serious medical problems. The bisexual/lesbian/gay wristband is gray.

Of the approximately 3,000 prisoners in the jail, Bruner said, 49 wear gray bands. He added that the small number was evidence that inmates are afraid to disclose their sexual orientation if they are not heterosexual. "In our judgement," said Bruner in reference to the 49 registered inmates, "that's a disproportionately low number of gay and bisexual people."

Chris Nealon

## DDI tests promising

WASHINGTON — New results from tests of the drug DDI show it to be at least as effective as AZT in combatting HIV, even at doses low enough to minimize toxic side effects. DDI also stimulated the production of immune-system T-cells in some study participants; however, people who had previously taken AZT showed little or no improvement in their T-cell count after taking DDI.

The New York Times reported that a study published in the British medical journal, *Lancet*, showed a significant slowing in the increase of HIV (a virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS) in trial participants taking DDI. Of 58 people with AIDS or ARC who began taking DDI in March 1988, only 6 had died 18 months later.

Researchers and activists had hoped that AZT and DDI could be used alternately, maximizing the effects of each while limiting exposure to each drug's toxic side effects. That hope appeared to be dashed by the discovery that people who had taken AZT for four months or more before entering the clinical trial showed negligible improvement in their T-cell counts. In contrast, those who had not used AZT showed significant improvement in their body's ability to fight infection: a 16 percent increase in T-cells after three months, 30 percent at one year, and 26 percent at 18 months.

Researchers also found that DDI was effective at a low dose: 9.6 milligrams per kilogram of body weight. That dosage delayed the onset of side effects like numbness and inflammation of the pancreas.

Laura Briggs

## Bi teenager takes the colonel to court

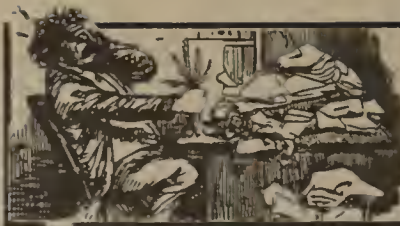
SACRAMENTO, Calif.—An 18-year-old bisexual man filed a sexual harassment complaint in July against a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise here in response to physical threats, verbal abuse and little response from his superiors.

Tom Bills had just moved to Sacramento from Washington and had become friends with a female employee. When he told her he was bisexual, Bills said she told everyone in the restaurant, according to the *Bay Area Reporter*. Bills said that harassment by fellow male employees began right away and continued even though he informed his supervisor of the incidents. The second time Bills went to his manager, he said he was told to ignore the harassment.

Soon afterwards, the district manager's son, who is a Mormon, came in and told Bills "gay people will be the first to go when God comes back." Bills was also told by a co-worker that "they should go to San Francisco and shoot gay people."

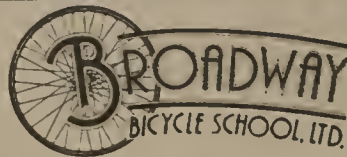
After months of harassment, Bills quit his job. Although officials have told Bills his case could take up to two years, he says he is willing to pursue it because, "I don't want anyone to go through the stress that I went through."

Susan Schmitz



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MARILYN HUMPHRIES

## HHS secretary targeted

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.— About two dozen AIDS activists protested outside a noon address by Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan on Sept. 10. The demonstration, organized by ACT UP/Boston, called on Sullivan to change federal government practices relating to gay youth, people with AIDS, and people who are HIV positive. Sullivan's nephew, Cambridge resident David Williamson, joined the ACT UP demonstration.

Demonstrators called on Sullivan to end the suppression of the youth suicide report, which indicated that 30 percent of suicide attempts by teenagers are undertaken by young lesbians and gay men. Activists also demanded that Sullivan change the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) policy that denies entry into the U.S. to non-citizens who are HIV positive.

In addition, protesters blasted Sullivan for failing to appoint a director of the National Institutes for Health (NIH) for more than a year, inaction which they said was hurting AIDS research.

Demonstrators may get a response to the latter demand more quickly than they had anticipated. Reports published the day following the demonstration indicated that a woman, cardiologist Bernadine Healy, is Sullivan's pick for the job. Healy's nomination is, at least in part, in response to criticism from women members of Congress about the failure of the NIH to address women's health concerns.

Sullivan got his first taste of ACT UP-style politics last June, when activists booed him and threw paper airplanes during his closing remarks at the Sixth International Conference on AIDS in San Francisco (see GCN, July 1, 1990).

—Laura Briggs

## Fens graffiti sparks officials' ire

*Gay activists/artists, who say their spray-painted messages in a cruising area promote safer sex and awareness about anti-gay violence, accuse the mayor's liaison to the gay community of 'snitching'*

By Laura Briggs

BOSTON—Two different visions of the Fens were in evidence last week, as some celebrated gay sexuality in the popular cruising area, while members of city government tried to clean up the pro-gay graffiti in the park.

A diverse group of men, ranging from community activists to closeted cruisers, joined together Sept. 8 in an event that paid tribute to public gay sex, and shared anti-violence and safer sex strategies. United Fruit Company (UFC), the Rubber Faeries (an affinity group of ACT UP/Boston), and AIDS Action Committee's Safe Company put together the programming, which some called the "Fens Sex Scandal" (Organizers never agreed on a name.)

The late-night party featured go-go boys dancing on picnic tables, safer sex and self-defense demonstrations, and the distribution of over 500 packets containing condoms, lube, safer sex information, whistles, and small flashlights. UFC provided entertainment, singing "God Bless Erotica" and performing a skit, "We are the Fens," written by Wes McLarin.

The best spectacle of the night, according to UFC member Danny Schultz, was a procession of 25 men carrying a 10-foot high phallus to a spot marked by burning candles and incense. Off in the reeds, a man played a recorder. After the phallus was erected, men joined together for a ritual invocation to Pan, the pagan god of sexuality and disorder.

### Graffiti

The graphic safer sex graffiti that has been spray-painted on the paths of the Fens sporadically over the last two years was the subject of controversy recently. In the last two months, graffiti artists have stepped up their work, which features two penises being masturbated with the logo "safe sex" underneath. They have also added a new piece, which shows two lips and a whistle, with the words "blow it." And, as activists sped up the pace of their work, so too did the Parks Department, painting black squares over it with increasing rapidity.

The running battle between the artists and the Parks Department took a new twist last week, as rumors surfaced in ACT UP and Queer Nation that Ann Sanders, the mayor's liaison to the lesbian and gay community, had told the Parks Department's Victoria Williams that ACT UP was responsible for the graffiti.

"Probably I did," Sanders told GCN. "I said ACT UP, and I also mentioned some other groups that are active down there."

In fact, according to those who claim to be responsible for the graffiti, ACT UP was not involved in the work. They spoke to GCN on the condition of anonymity, saying that they wanted the graffiti to be about the message, and not the personalities involved. A member of the group, some of whom like to cruise in the Fens, also noted that the action was illegal. The member added that the group's "redecorating" was not intended as a civil disobedience action, and that the group did not wish to be arrested for it.

"It looks like [Sanders'] job is to squeal to the mayor's office, instead of helping gay activists coordinate their efforts," said one graffiti artist. "That when she squealed she got it wrong shows just how out of touch she is with the gay community."

The artists said that their intention was to promote a sense of gay community in the Fens, which they said was often frequented by closeted gay men who sometimes feel alienated from other gay people. They also see their role as helping to promote the safer sex and anti-violence messages of other activists.

"The most effective way of learning about safer sex is from a partner," said one of the activists. "If someone sees the message right after they've gotten a condom from Safe Company and right before the sexual act, you create a situation where a person is more likely to do safer sex."

The activists said that the lack of community among men in the Fens makes it more dangerous. They said that pro-gay graffiti helps stake out the Fens as the "vibrant, wonderful cultural phenomenon" that it is in the gay community. "The graffiti is a much

Continued on page 11

## Judge stalls Kowalski case

*Karen Thompson faces another setback in her attempt to become her disabled lover's legal guardian, but says she is confident that she will eventually win her long battle*

By Chris Nealon

DULUTH, Minn — Further delaying a decision in the case of disabled lesbian Sharon Kowalski, a Minnesota judge ruled Sept. 3 that no guardian can be appointed for Kowalski without a full hearing. The judge, Robert V. Campbell, argued that there was not sufficient evidence in favor of any one potential guardian. Observers had hoped that Campbell would simply appoint a guardian for Kowalski.

With the Sept. 3 decision, however, the battle between Kowalski's parents and her lover, Karen Thompson, for guardianship of Kowalski will continue well into the fall. A meeting to gather evidence for the hearing has been scheduled for Oct. 10.

Thompson has been fighting for access to her lover and for Kowalski's right to medical treatment since a 1983 car accident in which Kowalski suffered serious head injuries. Over the years, as Kowalski's case garnered national attention, Thompson has gradually scored a few victories, notably the transfer of Kowalski from a Hibbing, Minn., nursing home to a rehabilitation facility in Minneapolis. The nursing home, chosen for Kowalski by her parents, was judged in 1984 to be unacceptable for Kowalski's care, and Kowalski was moved to Minneapolis in Feb. 1989 (see GCN, Feb. 12, 1989). Thompson has had regular access to Kowalski since she was moved.

Shortly after Kowalski was moved, her father, Donald, filed a motion to have himself removed as his daughter's guardian. When Thompson applied for guardianship of her lover, however, the Kowalskis insisted that she not be appointed. According to

Thompson, Campbell's decision to hold a hearing is based not so much on a lack of evidence as on a fear of making a politically volatile decision.

"It's so frustrating," Thompson told GCN. "He just won't take a stand." She said she had become angry with the slow progress of the case, particularly with the court's determination to keep the affair out of the public eye. "The judge is anti-coverage," said Thompson, adding that the court filed a temporary gag order on Thompson last summer in order to prevent her from talking to the media. She insists, however, that it is not inappropriate to publicize the facts of Kowalski's case, which she sees as a political struggle as well as a personal one. "Everyone keeps using it against me because I'm out here fighting for issues and causes," said Thompson.

Indeed, according to a recent letter sent to Campbell by Fred Friedman, the Kowalskis' lawyer, the Kowalskis view Thompson as a "smooth talker and a hustler for various causes," including the "resolution of homophobic hang-ups."

In the same letter, dated Aug. 14, Friedman said that "If the ability to turn commitment into hard work, loyalty, and energy is the test, nobody could meet the test of the guardianship statute better than Karen Thompson." Friedman wrote that his hesitation was that the Kowalskis themselves are opposed to Thompson's appointment.

### 'The bottom line'

Nonetheless, Thompson said, she thought there was a positive side to the upcoming procedures. "I really wish that it could come to an end, but in other ways I'm glad there

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## Murphy drops out

*Mass. feminists and gay activists are saddened by the lieutenant governor's decision to withdraw from the election, but are hopeful that her move will effectively eliminate ultra-right candidate John Silber*

By Ed Boyce

BOSTON — In a surprise move, Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy announced Sept. 10 that she was withdrawing from the Massachusetts governor's race, and endorsed former attorney general Frank Bellotti for the office. The primary will be held Tuesday, Sept. 18.

Murphy, who has been locked firmly in third place in the polls since earlier this year, said the move was intended to place the best interests of the state first.

The last straw of the Murphy campaign apparently came last week when Murphy suffered considerable backlash after assuming the office of Acting Governor and handing down several executive orders designed to deal with the state's fiscal crisis. Gov. Michael Dukakis is away in Europe for two weeks on a trade mission.

"This is no time for business as usual, or politics as usual," said Murphy to a packed press conference last Monday. "Therefore, I am withdrawing as candidate for governor. I will continue to act as governor and lieutenant governor for the rest of my term." Later in the short speech, Murphy said she will continue to fight hard for issues she believes in, such as privacy and choice.

Endorsing Bellotti, she said, "[Bellotti] comes closest to the values that are important to me, and today, he personally committed to me his support for the right to privacy and the right to choose.... I will vote for Frank Bellotti in next week's primary."

### 'I was saddened'

Reaction from the lesbian and gay community generally reflected sadness about Murphy's departure from the race. Three major statewide lobbying groups, the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, and the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, had all endorsed Murphy for governor. However, despite sadness, many also expressed respect for the move, which they see as effectively stopping the election chances of Boston University's president-on-paid-leave John Silber.

"It's a disappointment we don't have Murphy," said Rich Braun, a Somerville gay activist, "but it's a strong show of courage and a victory for the gay community's anti-Silber movement."

"I was saddened and disappointed because

she was the most progressive candidate in the race," said Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Caucus. But Isaacson also praised Murphy's move as "a very noble gesture," and said she was now comfortable supporting Bellotti in the Democratic primary. "Bellotti has been very good on gay and lesbian issues," she said.

Speculating on how members of the Alliance would vote given the current situation, the group's chair, Don Gorton said, "I expect most Alliance members will follow Evelyn's lead and vote for Bellotti. I think Frank is a candidate we can comfortably support."

With support for Murphy not reaching much above 20 percent in the polls over the last few months, many believed that Murphy had little chance of winning the election. For some, the most important result of Murphy's withdrawal was its damage to Silber's campaign, since it seems unlikely that many supporters of the liberal lieutenant governor will switch to the arch-conservative Silber.

"I was tremendously relieved because I thought Silber still had a chance of becoming governor," said David LaFontaine, lobbying director for the Coalition, upon hearing the news of Murphy's withdrawal. "Stopping a homophobic monster like that had to be our first priority. Evelyn deserves praise for recognizing how dangerous Silber is and taking the necessary steps to prevent the liberal votes from splitting," he said.

LaFontaine, while generally supportive of Bellotti, cautioned, "People need to lobby Bellotti on issues where they have disagreements with him, such as the death penalty."

Pro-choice groups were disheartened about the move. Mass. Choice director Pam Nourse said she was "sad, very saddened" to hear the news. "No other candidate has the personal commitment to choice that Evelyn has."

Nourse pointed out, however, that "there are very strong differences between the candidates in both races. Frank Bellotti is much stronger on choice than John Silber."

At the end of her withdrawal speech, Murphy, the first woman elected to statewide office in Massachusetts, expressed hope that her tenure and her candidacy have been an inspiration to women. "For all the young women in this state," she said, "I hope I've made more opportunity for you."



# COMMUNITY VOICES

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### GCN Editorial Guidelines

The "Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" sections in GCN are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed within our pages. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and "Speaking Out" contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space available basis only. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff or membership.

All letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

Because GCN wishes to encourage dialogue and a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, printing of "Speaking Out" contributions received from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" appear in GCN recently may be postponed temporarily.

For editing purposes, it is helpful to be able to contact you easily -- please enclose your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article. Thanks.

Send to: Community Voices/Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" contributions are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff, Board or membership.

### Capitalization of Gay and Lesbian

Dear GCN:

Please tell me and our readers why you do not capitalize the words Gay and Lesbian? It's high time that we do it. We are just as important as ethnic minority groups. We are a culture too.

If I see the phrase, a "gay theatre piece," I don't know if it's a happy piece or a homosexual play, if it's not capitalized.

Lesbian comes from the isle of Lesbos, and for that reason alone should surely be capitalized. It's an insult that the only place name you do not capitalize is Lesbian. Why does Ukrainian deserve a capital and not Lesbian?

Language and even capitalization of words can prevent or encourage empowerment. Let's raise ourselves in all the ways.

Love ya, and still causing trouble after all these years,  
satya littlebear  
Berkeley, Calif.

### "A couple of notes..."

Dear GCN:

A couple of notes to the Boston area before I let my subscription lapse.

First of all, in regards to your series some time ago on class issues I was touched in a negative way. I've been planning to change my career to activism and helping others in need. Since I'm a middle-class G.W.M. I got the distinct impression that anything I did to help the less fortunate would be thought of as condescending and effete. I can't bring myself to read much of GCN anymore because of that. I've had to rethink my plans. (If you think that I'm being cowardly please keep in mind that sources of motivation and support in this part of the nation are mostly non-existent.) I've instead decided to focus on working toward getting some basics here at home. You see, even social outlets are absolutely absent — completely!

Secondly, it seems that rowdy activists are the only acceptable agents of change, if I am to judge by comments I read in the GCN! I would very strongly recommend that most of the people who really want change, please read Miss Manners' or Emily Post's writings. So much more can be accomplished in a lasting way by acting civilized and polite. This is no joke! Radical actions only trigger disgust and disdain in the vast majority of citizens. Here in the midwest it also triggers violent backlash. I am personally offended by what I'm beginning to see as non-issues shoved down our throats by adolescents. (I'm not saying that I'm a conservative — on the contrary I'm quite a leftist — are there many of us left on earth these days?)

So I will temporarily leave you Bostonians by the wayside to bicker about what is and isn't politically correct. Who to be included or excluded from your bars, bookstores and festivals. When you wake up to how fortunate you are to have such things within easy grasp you will understand where I'm coming from. Meanwhile, until you city slickers act civilized you can count me as very alienated.

In case you're asking yourself why I don't leave the small town, I have this final statement: I don't enjoy urban living — I lived in San Francisco for several years. The pollution, crime and inconveniences are not attractive to me. I enjoy having fresh air, wild animals and easy access to the open countryside. Besides, how can I desert my rural brothers and sisters? Maybe we can work together and learn from your mistakes.

Thanks for reading.  
J. Alan Johnson  
Norfolk, Neb.

### Thanks

Dear GCN:

Thank you for publishing two great reviews: Amy Hoffman on Kate Millett and Marc Stein on David Halperin (GCN, July 17-31, 1990). It's this kind of careful, insightful, committed writing that makes GCN my favorite gay publication.

Peter Drucker  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

P.S. Another book you should review is Christine Downing's *Myths and Mysteries of Same-Sex Love* (Crossroad).

### Sexual malpractice is a lesbian/gay issue

Dear GCN:

By focusing GCN's first-ever look at sexual malpractice (GCN, Aug. 17, 1990) on narrow legislative and legalistic issues without first providing some basic information about the scope of the problem and the grassroots movement that has arisen in response, Laura Briggs has done a disservice to readers attempting to get a general handle on the issues as well as to activists who have been organizing around the issue on many fronts.

To address the specific legislative issues: though Briggs fails to adequately differentiate the civil from the criminal bill (both of which are currently being sat on in the Mass.

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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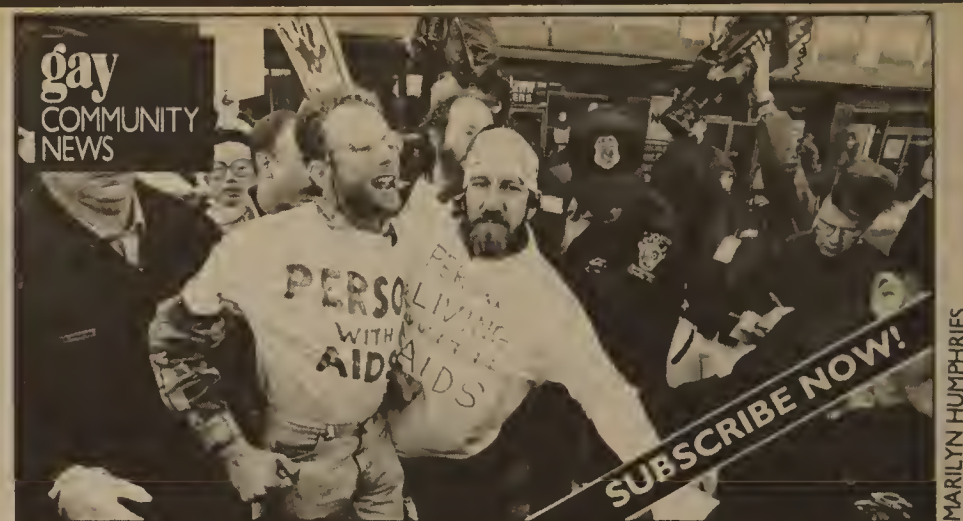
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- BARBARA SMITH, CO-FOUNDER, KITCHEN TABLE: WOMEN OF COLOR PRESS

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# Philip Morris speaks out on Helms/ ACT UP controversy

By Guy L. Smith

The controversy surrounding our support to North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms is being widely discussed in an atmosphere devoid of facts. An extremist group claiming to represent the entire gay community has called for a boycott of our products — particularly Marlboro cigarettes and Miller beer — to protest our support to Senator Helms. Yet this group has consistently refused to acknowledge publicly the significant contributions from the makers of Marlboro and Miller to programs and organizations that address the special needs of the gay community. We hope that more reasonable people will look at all the facts before reaching a conclusion.

Philip Morris Companies Inc. was among the first American corporations to assist in AIDS research and AIDS-related efforts. We continue to be a corporate leader in the fight to find treatments, and ultimately a cure for AIDS, and we also support care and counseling programs for victims and their families, as well as educational and community outreach programs. Our company-wide contributions in this area will reach more than \$1,000,000 by this Fall.

Philip Morris is one of the nation's leading corporate supporters of the arts and is currently sponsoring a campaign to increase public awareness of the Bill of Rights, a document which enshrines the principles of individual freedom and free expression.

We were one of the first corporations to denounce discrimination and to support equal opportunity regardless of race, creed, color or choice of life-style. Even today, Philip Morris supports legislation to make it

illegal for an employer to discriminate against current or prospective employees because of avocational activities.

As a corporation, we are as firmly committed to a strong sense of social responsibility as we are to the continued growth of our business.

Through our food, beer and tobacco businesses, Philip Morris has a major presence in North Carolina including 3,900 employees. Senator Helms has been a strong supporter of our business interests in that state, not the least of which has been his leadership role on tobacco legislation. Our employee political action committee has contributed \$19,000 to the Senator's campaigns during his 18 years in the Senate. It is not uncommon to support our political representatives in those states where we have major plant facilities and significant numbers of employees.

However, our support for Senator Helms (or for that matter, any other politician) is not an endorsement of the Senator's position on the entire political spectrum. We have supported many candidates for public office whose outlook on many issues is diametrically opposed to that of Senator Helms, and will no doubt continue to do so.

Our contribution to the Jesse Helms Center at Wingate College in North Carolina, on the other hand, is in support of scholarly work, not of Senator Helms. Its purpose is not political, nor could it be under the rules of its charter. It is educational, a fact explicit in its nonprofit status granted by the IRS. Contributions will be used to establish at Wingate College a collection of value

to scholars interested in, among other subjects, agricultural policy and legislation, especially as it relates to tobacco in North Carolina. Issues on agriculture are, without question, of significant interest to Philip Morris and our food, beer and tobacco businesses, all of which are agriculturally based.

We see no contradiction in our support to Senator Helms and our support to other candidates and causes. All these decisions arise from our commitment to our business, to our stockholders and employees, and to being a good corporate citizen in our communities. Such decision are sometimes complex and at times unpopular, but we attempt to make them honorably, with full awareness of their complexity.

In the same spirit, we ask those who disagree with Senator Helms to understand that we, like they, are trying to do right as we see it, and to act for the best in a complicated world. We recognize the severity of AIDS and have taken a leadership role to help fight this disease. We pledge to continue that commitment and to continue to be a positive force in the efforts to eliminate AIDS.

*Guy L. Smith IV is Vice President, Corporate Affairs for Philip Morris Companies Inc. In April of this year, Mr. Smith met with members of ACT UP to discuss Philip Morris' position and clear up any misunderstandings or misinformation. He has kept communication channels open and continues to speak with members of the gay and lesbian community on issues of mutual concern.*

State House), the two are designed to solve different problems. The civil bill would simply extend patients' rights, and as far as I know, no one including the Civil Liberties Union has voiced any serious objections to it. It does have its limitations — e.g., civil litigation is limited to those who can afford it, and chronic abusers can pay out hush money to a series of victims without ever changing their behavior. The criminal bill would fill these gaps, but has some problems of its own — most notably, that it would be a part of the hideous criminal "justice" system and that it could potentially be used to compel a patient to testify against his/her will (and yes, hypothetically it could become a weapon in some future anti-gay witchhunt, as could anything these days). The large community-based task force that spent a full year debating and redrafting the legislation (a process which our latter-day critics were unfortunately not interested enough to participate in) looked at criminal laws on the books in other states and decided that they have done more good than harm. Laura didn't speak with members of that task force or any other legal experts. In fact, the only legal worker we hear from is Kevin Cathcart. Kevin is well-intentioned and raises some points that might have been useful in a less muddled context, but I'm sure he would be the first to admit that this is hardly his area of expertise, either in legal or political terms.

Speaking of lack of expertise, what about the long-winded and irrelevant horseshit from heterosexual geneticist Ruth Hubbard about our "choices" and "our own agency and desire?" Has Hubbard ever required the safety to experience flashbacks and other regression in order to recover from trauma? Has she ever been in a medical emergency that left her totally dependent on a medical provider? If not, what does she know about our vulnerability? Her romanticized rhetoric bears no relation to the dozens of real-life stories I've heard from clients cruelly tricked and betrayed by their self-absorbed, and often sadistic, would-be helpers. In the space she took up, we could have heard from more malpractice survivors and/or from at least one of the half-dozen prominent feminist and lesbian clinician/activists who has done extensive research on sexual malpractice. We could also have heard more about the movement by and for malpractice survivors which began in the '70s in the Midwest, and about the brave women who dragged the issue into public awareness in Boston by taking their stories to the *Globe*.

Finally, an issue sidetracked entirely by Laura's article: sexual malpractice is a gay issue not only because some hypothetical hanging judge might use it to persecute our (presumably innocent) doctors at some unspecified time in the future, but because gay and lesbian practitioners are getting away with sexually abusing some of us now. In fact studies show that the proportion of clients charging same-sex misconduct is significantly *higher* than our 10 percent of the population — and that lesbians and gay men who come forward face the added burden of estrangement from our communities. For the record, though I was not identified as such when quoted in Laura's article, I am a survivor of sexual malpractice by an "out" feminist lesbian — as are about 10-15 percent of the other women survivors I've met.

Pam Mitchell  
Cambridge, Mass.

## Arab Women's Network

Dear GCN:

Iraq has invaded Kuwait. As we write, George Bush has ordered troops and planes and ships to Saudi Arabia. First as a defensive measure only. Now (August 10th), as one administration source has stated, to "take Hussein out."

We ask you to think while you read the newspapers and watch the news. To look for anti-Arab bias. To be aware. How different is Iraq's invasion of Kuwait from the U.S. invasion of Panama? Both put in place "puppet" governments. Where was the world outcry when the U.S. invaded Panama? Why is the U.S. economy more important than the Iraqi economy? the Panamanian economy? the Palestinian economy? the Lebanese economy? Where was the condemnation of Israel when that country invaded and occupied Lebanon, murdering 10,000 people? Israel has invaded and controls territories from three Arab countries — Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. Ask yourself why can Israel annex East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights; and occu-

py the Gaza Strip and the West Bank without public outcry let alone a military blockade?

What have you heard from the *people* of Kuwait? Since when did oil in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia become U.S. ("our") oil? Why is the U.S. so willing to invest money to wage a war against Iraq and not invest money and resources to help people with cancer and AIDS? It is estimated that it will cost \$10 million a day or \$300 million a month to pay for the costs of sending 50,000 troops to Saudi Arabia; this is over and above what the Pentagon would spend anyway in salaries and other expenses for peace-time operations (*San Francisco Chronicle*, August 13, 1990, page A11). The price goes up as the number of troops increase. Why not such a quick and concerned effort to respond to the needs of homeless people? To the needs of women, children and men who suffer from sexual assault, abuse and incest?

We ask that you ask yourself — what is the Arab perspective, to look beyond the blatant imperialistic, racist and neocolonialist disinformation. When you hear people talking about this crisis is the term "madman" used? Are Arab people and leaders referred to as "irrational," "hotheaded," "thieves," "rapists," "vagabonds," "rich oil sheiks," "billionaires?" What does it mean when Hussein is compared to Hitler?

What does the U.S. have to gain from a military buildup and intervention/war at this time? It seems far from coincidental that the day Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait the Senate restored funding for the Stealth bomber. Why is it alright for the U.S. to violate U.N. resolutions as it sees fit without being blockaded? Remember, George Bush was director of the CIA. To what extent are the readers of the American press being hoodwinked by the U.S. government?

Ask yourself, what information is presented in the press about Arab people, Arab leaders and Arab countries/culture/history. Isn't it interesting that in the months leading up to the Iraqi invasion the *Chronicle* ran two extensive articles on the "madman" Hussein, calling him every emotionally laden name in the book while minimally addressing his actions and policies? *Newsweek* magazine also ran such an article. Are we being "prepared for war?"

Arab Lesbian and Bisexual  
Women's Network  
San Francisco, California

[Interested readers can contact the above writers through: Arab Lesbian and Bisexual

Women's Network, P.O. Box 460526, San Francisco, CA 94114.]

## Words from Ireland!

Dear GCN:

I note from an issue of *GCN* from some months ago that an item appeared which stated that "In Ireland, there remains a vital need for an articulate and well-produced Irish gay and lesbian magazine." We feel that this may have misled your readers.

We do indeed have a community newspaper called (coincidentally) *Gay Community News*. It has been published since February 1988, at first largely on a voluntary basis, but since July, 1989 on a professional basis. At this time, when changes in our homophobic laws are pending, the need for an effective voice for our community is vital: we feel that our paper provides this voice. We have a circulation of 5,000, both within Ireland and to people interested in Irish gay and lesbian issues around the world.

If any of your readers would like a copy of our paper, we will be happy to send it on request. Readers who would like to receive *GCN* on a monthly basis by Air Mail could take out an annual subscription for 20 Irish pounds (sealed envelope) or 12 Irish pounds (wrapper): *GCN*, Hirschfield Centre, 10 Fownes Street Upper, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Yours faithfully  
Frank Thackaberry, Editor  
Dublin, Ireland

## How gay and drug using HIV/PWA prisoners are getting along at Norfolk

Dear GCN:

I am writing in response to your request for information regarding how gay and drug using HIV/PWA prisoners are getting along together.

It is my experience that most gay men in prison do not live openly gay lives. If one does come out publicly, then one's social life is severely curtailed. The straight prisoners feel that their reputations as macho men will not withstand association with openly gay men. However, if one never mentions that one is gay and if one does not "flaunt" one's sexual orientation, then one is accepted by nearly all the other prisoners.

While I was at MCI [Massachusetts Correctional Institution] Norfolk, we formed an AIDS awareness committee for the purpose of presenting information on

AIDS. We covered both what to do if one was HIV/AIDS positive and how to prevent becoming infected. In these seminars both drug use and sexual activity were discussed frankly and openly with only the usual few sarcastic comments regarding homosexuality. Most of the inmates listened respectfully and with interest to anything presented regarding AIDS. Those few who found it necessary to make negative comments about gays were trying to protect their macho image and were soon silenced by the other inmates.

Those inmates who are HIV/AIDS positive almost invariably claim to have contracted the disease from drug use. Only those who are already openly gay admit unsafe sex was the cause. But they were already shunned by the majority of inmates. They continued to be shunned by those claiming drug use as the cause of their disease.

As a law librarian I was quite involved with legal issues regarding AIDS. In such an advocacy position in behalf of those infected, I was often confided in and learned that about fifty percent of the time the afflicted inmate did not know whether he had contracted the disease from sex or drugs. Those who did know averaged about thirty percent drugs and twenty percent gay. Of course, I cannot be sure of these informal statistics because of the difficulty these men had trusting anyone in prison with confidential information. I suspect they are not correct. It is very difficult to admit homosexual activity to another prisoner.

If I were asked to make a guess, I would estimate that AIDS contracted in prison is caused by drug use twenty to twenty-five percent of the time and that gay sex accounts for the rest.

The prison officials go out of their way to make both drug use and sex unsafe. Where a few years ago bleach was commonly available, as soon as it became known that one could protect oneself by rinsing one's needle in bleach, the bleach disappeared. Not only are condoms considered contraband and are forbidden, where once one could obtain Saran Wrap or a similar product, this is no longer possible. Hence, the prison officials have found a way to make capital punishment legal while it is still illegal.

I don't know if any of this is any help, but I would be happy to discuss it with you.

Kenneth Gordon  
Dorchester, MA



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## Obscenity

Continued from page 1

now the sheriff, helped instigate the indictments against the CAC and Barrie, which were handed down by a grand jury April 7. Good, the vice-chair of the Hamilton County Democratic Party's Executive Committee, said the indictments are the latest example of conservative Republican officials' "blatant homophobia."

A former board member and now lobbyist for the gay group, Stonewall Cincinnati, Good said he is probing possible links between Albanese's campaign contributors and board members of Citizens for Community values, a Cincinnati-based mainstay in the anti-abortion and anti-pornography movements.

Local activist and artist Scott MacLarty agreed that the judge is prejudiced against the CAC and Barrie, and called for all charges to be dropped. "The most conservative members of Hamilton County feel they deserve power forever," he said, "and must exercise intellectual, artistic and sexual terrorism to preserve it."

The Sept. 24 courthouse protest will be led by outraged artists, art students, AIDS activists and others angry at attacks on freedom of expression, said MacLarty. A picket line will begin at 9:30 a.m., just before the trial's opening, and continue into the lunch hour so that more people can join or witness the event at Main and Court Streets downtown. Civil disobedience is expected.

The Mapplethorpe brouhaha first surfaced in Washington, D.C., last spring when the Corcoran Gallery cancelled the artist's exhibit, "The Perfect Moment," because it feared a congressional uproar. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and other members of Congress then led the way to an overhaul of the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The Perfect Moment" is currently on display at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in Boston. Obscenity charges that were filed against ICA director David Ross have been dropped.

—filed from Washington

## Navy

Continued from page 1

face severe scrutiny from men and are sexually stereotyped depending on whether or not they accept sexual advances from men. "It's a horrible dichotomy: dyke or whore," said Dyer, who added that "countless Navy women" had reported such treatment.

Dyer also said that other branches of the military were especially hostile to lesbians, citing statistics that list women as being discharged for homosexuality eight times more frequently than men, and data that compare the 15 percent female population of the Air Force to the 50 percent of discharges that are directed at women. The bottom line, said Dyer, is that "women are more likely to be targeted than men" for dismissal.

Rosemary Dempsey, vice president for action at NOW, agreed with Dyer that the memo was sexist as well as homophobic, commenting that hounding lesbians is a technique some military men are using to ease their paranoia about women's performance in the service.

"There are certainly people who are male and straight who are horrified at how well women have done," said Dempsey. In response to that anxiety, she added, "the fear and oppression of lesbians is being used to oppress all women."

Although the memo was distributed before the mobilization of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf, observers agree that the situation in the Middle East highlights the inappropriateness of the anti-lesbian message. At the moment, they argue, the armed forces are actively depending upon thousands of lesbians and gay men, even as a witchhunt has been declared against them.

"At least 10 percent of the Gulf forces are gay," said Dyer, referring to a commonly quoted statistic that puts the number of women and men who identify as homosexual at 10 percent of a given population. Dyer added that in the case of the military, there is reason to believe that the percentage is even higher, saying that many military personnel who are lesbians or gay men join the armed forces in order to "escape a small town" in which they have been unable to meet other gay people. Dyer also said that the military is notable as a profession in which the pressure to marry is less intense than elsewhere.

### Impact on campuses

On the domestic political scene, meanwhile, college students across the country are returning from summer vacation to find that their campuses are alive with opposition to the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), an organization that prepares stu-

dents for service in the armed forces while they are still in college. ROTC enforces the anti-lesbian and gay policy as well.

Dempsey said that the Donnell memo needs to be shown to students doing organizing against ROTC, as well as to student considering entering the ROTC. Often, she said, young people simply don't believe that the military actually discriminates against lesbians and gay men, and the memo is an important reminder of the lengths to which the military will go in order to enforce the policy.

"We've got to let young people know that this is reality," she said, remarking that students frequently hear about anti-gay discrimination in the military and think, "Oh, that's a horror story."

Along with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Human Rights Campaign Fund and several other lesbian and gay organizations, NOW is sponsoring a conference in Minneapolis, Nov. 9 to work against ROTC discrimination on college campuses.

The underlying problem, Hyde said, is the rampant paranoia and hostility towards lesbians and gay men in the military, a condition that Hyde asserted has real impact on their lives. It could be destroy a woman's military career, Hyde said, "to even suggest that a friendship between women is more than that."

Hyde speculated that Donnell's memo may have been the result of "an attack of testosterone," but affirmed nonetheless the consequences of the memo on the women currently in Donnell's command, saying, "People's lives are being ruined by this, I guarantee you."

—filed from Boston

## Conference

Continued from page 1

application form was a mistake.

"The process we have used has stood in the way of people's participation in the conference," said Alexander. "It was not our intent to judge anybody, but we have to take responsibility for the result as conference organizers. Now, we have to think creatively about how we can hold on to the spirit of the conference and move forward."

Bowen also expressed regret that the form did not clearly state that applicants should pay what they felt they could afford for the conference. The application describes a sliding scale from \$0-200 based on income, with specific amounts attached to different income ranges. "We're hearing people say that they can't afford to come. But that defeats the whole purpose, when the point is to strategize about an economic system that impoverishes people," said Bowen.

According to Bowen, no one who has applied for the conference has been turned away, and applications are still being accepted. The original intent, she said, was to ensure that half the participants would be impoverished women and women of color, a goal that has been met thus far.

As a global conference, with participants coming from many nations and with a commitment to strategize for a global movement against racial and economic oppression, "the conference has to be" 50 percent women of color and impoverished women, said Bowen, "because seven-eighths of the world is people of color."

"The women's movement is not monolithic, and we need to draw on the diversity and richness of women," added Brenda Joyner, a Black lesbian who is the director of the Tallahassee Feminist Women's Health Center in Florida. Joyner, who has been a consultant for the event, told GCN that most of the feminist conferences she attends are overwhelmingly dominated by white women.

"If there were more women of color there, the product would be better," said Joyner. "We need to speak to the alienation between women, to the charges of racism in the women's movement, to the pervasive concern of all working women that the women's movement is not looking out for their interests." Added Joyner, "If this sort of thing happened more often, I think we would be further along."

It is critical to the feminist movement as a whole, not only to feminists of color, that the struggle encompasses anti-racist work, according to Mab Segrest, a white lesbian writer. "I think that feminism in the U.S. has come to certain juncture that presents white women with a choice of being right-wing feminists or progressive feminists," said Segrest, who has also been a consultant for the conference. "By the year 2020, white people will be in the minority here, and when you look at how white minority governments act, like in South Africa, you realize that the stakes are very high," she said. "Race will become increasingly contested. It

Continued on page 11

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# THE SHOW MUST GO ON

## THE FIRST NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN THEATRE FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE

**"T**his entire festival is about the future," said Tammis Doyle, of the Alice B. Theatre, which organized and hosted the First National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival, and she was right. With the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) broadening its attack on lesbian and gay artists — culminating most recently in the revoking of grants to four "homosexual" artists — the coincidental timing of the conference made it extraordinarily important not only as a much-needed center to network, exchange ideas and take pride in our work, but also as a locus for organizing against the tide of homophobia. Two of the blacklisted performers, Holly Hughes and Tim Miller, had shows in this year's Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival, which ran concurrently with the conference. According to Rick Rankin, Alice B.'s artistic director, the timing of these appearances couldn't have been more ironic. "The Theatre Festival was also a part of the Goodwill Arts Festival which ran in conjunction with the Goodwill Games — an international athletic competition. We had applied for an NEA grant for the festival and got it. So, right at the time that Tim Miller and Holly Hughes were being denied their funding they were performing in an NEA-funded festival." Conference panels such as "Policing our Desires" and "Explicit Sex on Stage," planned months ago, also became unnervingly timely.

Over 100 lesbians and gay men from 12 states and four countries met in Seattle July 7 and 8. Playwright Juergen Lemke, whose play *I Am Gay: Biographies of Men* in East Germany is currently selling out at East Berlin's official State Theatre, said in the first panel, "In the past to imagine that I'd be in America was like imagining I'd be on the moon." And 10 or 20 years ago, imagining a huge conference devoted exclusively to gay and lesbian theatre seemed like imagining the moon as well.

This first panel, "Global Lesbian/Gay Theatre," was summed up well in the words of Gillian Minervini, director of the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia: "Without international perspective, our work as lesbian/gay cultural workers is doomed to be shallow."

In "Policing Our Desires," Tim Miller addressed the process of daily denial by which we block out just how much at risk we are as queers in the world. Miller urged that the real danger lies not with the NEA or Jesse Helms but in self-censorship. Holly Hughes (whose *World Without End* is reviewed below) pointed out that the forces of censorship and suppression are already going after not only individuals but the venues that present "controversial" works. In New York City alone, since the NEA controversy began, WOW Cafe, home to Split Britches and other lesbian theatre, was evicted; Franklin Furnace, which produced the blacklisted Karen Finley, was suddenly fined for "fire violations"; and the alternative space The Kitchen has been subject to three audits.

Tears streaming down her cheeks as she spoke, Hughes continued, "The U.S. government wants us dead. They'll settle for invisible, but they'd prefer us dead." Several artists expressed pain and confusion over dealing with the NEA, and asked for suggestions. Hughes proposes accepting grants from the NEA, filing a letter of protest against the homophobic restrictions of the grants (recipients must promise not to produce homoerotic art lacking social value)



Buddies in Bad Times Theatre's *Drag Queens in Outer Space*, featuring (l-r) Lana Lust (Sky Gilbert), Marlene Delorme (Gordon MacKercher) and Judy Goose (Ken McDougall)

and then donating a portion of the money received to a fund for blacklisted artists. Screenwriter and playwright Craig Lucas (*Longtime Companion*) concurred, advising artists to take the money and put on the most homoerotic show possible.

The panel on "Explicit Sex" covered a wide range of opinion as to the purpose, usefulness and ethics of letting it all hang

out on stage. Lois Weaver of Split Britches stated bluntly that she was opposed to explicit sex on stage, that she didn't find it dramatically interesting. Tim Miller suggested that gay and lesbian theatre has a responsibility toward representation. The discussion eventually reached the tentative conclusion that lesbians may be at a historic point where women need to be more sexual

on stage -- as an antidote to the stereotype of passionless females -- while gay men perhaps need to be less sexual. Craig Lucas illustrated this by reporting that a straight viewer had said to him of the (squeaky clean) *Longtime Companion*, "I liked your movie but I don't understand why there had to be so much sex." The kicker is that there isn't any sex in the movie — for those of



Rhannon performing her solo piece *Toward Home*

you who haven't seen it — just a kiss and some affection. Perhaps, Lucas suggested, "It's more threatening to stereotypes that we [gay men] fall in love than that we have sex."

Not surprisingly, the panel on "Gay Sensibility" did not reach consensus on what that sensibility is, or even if it exists. Playwright Kate Bornstein (*Hidden: A Gender*, reviewed below) believes that gay sensibility will come "When Madison Avenue turns its eyes on us and says, 'Ah yes, you buy things, too....'" Playwright Rebecca Ranson, director of the Atlanta-based Southeastern Arts, Media and Education Project argues that gay sensibility is community-specific, and vocal artist Rhannon produced a definition that was individual-specific. "I am a lesbian artist — I'm a lesbian 24 hours a day. Everything I do is informed by that, the way I walk on stage, everything."

Other panels and workshops covered the artist as activist, cross-gender performance and programming for lesbian and gay audiences.

The Keynote Address evening opened with remarks by Alice B. Theatre co-directors Susan Finque and Rick Rankin (in the most adorable slip) and Ken Dixon, artistic director of San Francisco's Theatre Rhinoceros. These were followed by two entertaining pieces by Muriel Miguel of Spider Woman Theatre. Craig Lucas closed with an electrifying speech that drew a five-minute standing ovation. He began by proudly reclaiming "sissy" status and then laid it on the line: "Homophobia and misogyny are not related. They are the same." Recounting family and social pressures to be or at least act straight, Lucas concluded, "What I am is not only okay, but better than what I was supposed to be."

### Plays and performances

I was able to see less than half of the plays produced in the Festival, but each one I did was a worthwhile experience.

*Drag Queens in Outer Space* is the second in a comic trilogy (following *Drag*

*Queens on Trial*) presented by Buddies in Bad Times, Canada's only professional gay and lesbian theatre. *Outer Space* takes us into the intertwined dreams of a drag-queen trio, one of whom wants to leave his nelly ways behind and become a manly, masculine, normal homosexual. He tries out the roles of earnest, snotty intellectual, putting down drag as regressive and sexist; macho space cowboy; and one-half of the smug, twittering, yuppie couple Bret and Bart. He finally realizes, of course, that ya gotta be yourself, and it's all done with great spirit and panache. Most riotously funny is the segment where Bart brings Bret home to meet Mom, and Mom turns out to be a hysterically hysterical *Mommie Dearest* version of Joan Crawford. Sky Gilbert and Gordon Mackeracher as Lana Lust and Marlene Delorme, respectively, are excellent. Special kudos to Ken McDougall for Judy Goose, for the murderous Mommie and for performing the entire work in six-inch spikes.

*Larger Than Life* proved to be an unfortunately accurate title for many of the selections in this compilation of excerpts by actor Michael Kearns. A monologue from Paul Monette's *Afterlife*, an excerpt from James Carroll Pickett's *Dream Man* and from "The Spice Queen" were all stiff with the kind of overacting that gave rise to the term "stagey." Contrary to the usual weakness of a self-directed solo artist, however, the pieces Kearns had written himself were the strongest and redeemed the whole show. One of the founders of Artists Confronting AIDS, Kearns created these characters in an effort to round out and diversify the portrayals of people with AIDS. As whiny yuppie, "Patrick," blind junkie "Phoenix," and Black prostitute "Big Red" — "In between hand jobs," she says, "I concentrate on forgiveness" — Kearns is superb.

*Hidden: A Gender* links the stories of historical figure Hercline Barbet, a nineteenth-century hermaphrodite, and Catherine, a male-to-female transsexual lesbian. Serving as ringmaster, emcee and

quiz-show host is Doc Grinder (played by playwright Kate Bornstein), hawking his bottles of Gender Defender, guaranteed to keep you on one side of the gender line or the other.

This heavily autobiographical play recounts Bornstein's desire and decision to be a transsexual lesbian, and provocatively explores just what gender is. Bornstein is proof that not all transsexuals are people who couldn't handle being gay ("If I love a man, I must be a woman," etc.) "My gender is not related to my sexual preference," Bornstein explains, "The first is who I feel I am and the second is who I feel I want to be romantic with."

In a brilliant bit reminiscent of Tom Lehrer at his best, Bornstein gives us a teacher of somewhat dubious gender, laying down the law in a lesson to mask his own uncertainty. "I has no gender and neither does 'you.' 'We' doesn't and 'they' doesn't, which is a help to all of us; 'who' doesn't have a gender either. 'He' is masculine except when 'she' is universal. 'She' is female except when 'she' is inanimate."

*Hidden* is a fascinating and groundbreaking work which, as Catherine says of her experience, provides more questions than answers. ("I know I'm not a man, and most of the time I know I'm not a

corollary question is whether an artist must endlessly create only self-portraits.

Just days before the conference opened, NEA head John Frohmayr's lawyer designated Holly Hughes as a maker of "garbage art." Having finally seen the show, I can now reveal the reasons that *World Without End* has been slandered and nominated for censorship. The ostensible reason lies in three little words probably never before spoken onstage: "My mother's pussy." Okay, now that that's out of the way, the real reason is that Hughes frontally and obliquely takes on sexism, racism, violence against women, white liberalism and self-important men. As she repeats the refrain, "Men kill me," with less laughter each time, we begin to understand that she means it: men kill women. She commemorates Jennifer Levin, victim of the so-called "preppie murder," and "the women whose names I don't know because they were too dark, too old...."

*World Without End* has something to offend everyone — many of whom need offending. Early on Hughes trashes feminists by lumping them with the Moral Majority (presumably in reference to opposition to porn), but then goes on to make strong, explicitly feminist statements. She talks about lesbian identity, and then



Theatre Rhinoceros' *Hidden: A Gender*, featuring (l-r) Justin Bond, playwright Kate Bornstein and Sydney Erskine

woman.") In one chilling moment, female actor Sydney Erskine, playing a man imitating a macho brute, crosses over and *becomes* a predatory male onstage. The choice of a female for this role — and of a male actor (Justin Bond) for the primarily female Herculeine — would support the cultural anthropologists' view that sex is biological and gender is behavioral, a theory that Bornstein, in fact, disagrees with.

I hope that future works will follow and explore further the definition of gender, the real and supposed purposes of such a rigid either/or division; and the tension between the need and right of a community to define itself and the need and right of an individual to do so as well. This tension is played out in the rejection of transsexual lesbians by some lesbians and lesbian communities.

Surgery cannot provide a lifetime's worth of experience, and on that basis many women are uneasy about admitting male-to-female transsexuals into the women's community. On the other hand, if identity and experience can never be learned or created, one

goes on — and on and on and on, until it's Monologue Without End — about fucking some guy from her office. She skewers white liberalism. And yes, she does talk about her mother's pussy, and it's perfectly appropriate in a piece dealing with the inheritance of sexuality that a daughter receives from her mother. Hughes delivers all of this in a charming, scatty, nervous persona so well done that theatergoers might easily forget they are, in fact, watching a tightly controlled performance and not merely cavedropping on an original mind.

If the First National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival is any indication, John Frohmayr is doing for queer theatre what Anita Bryant did for gay organizing and what Michael Dukakis did for gay and lesbian parenting. ♦

*Mara Math's first experience of theatre was in sixth grade, when she pretended to be straight.*

# By MARA MATH



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## Fens

Continued from page 3

stronger message to potential muggers than anything the Park Service has done. It says that there is a group of people who will defend it and each other," said an artist.

Ed Boyce, a member of ACT UP's Rubber Faeries, the group fingered for the spray painting by Sanders, said that he was angered by Sanders' cooperation with the Parks Department. "Ann Sanders snitches on the gay community," said Boyce. "We should keep in mind that she works for the mayor, and her job is to protect the mayor, not work for the gay community," he added.

Sanders said that she felt that characterization was unfair. "I have to be amused that I could be thought of as a 'snitch,'" she said. "What that word means is someone who has a loyalty to one group, and betrays that. I work for the city. I am a liaison between the city and the gay community."

Sanders said that she has consistently been accessible to ACT UP. "I have been very helpful and sometimes instrumental in arranging meetings between ACT UP and various city agencies before demonstrations," she said. "I thought that was one of my best relationships. I would be surprised if anyone perceived that differently."

Meanwhile, Williams of the Parks Department said that it would continue to be that agency's policy to cut down the tall reeds which — until they were cut this summer, created a favored cruising area — and to paint over the graffiti.

Williams characterized the reeds as "unwanted vegetation." She told GCN that the graffiti was painted over because some users of the park "were complaining that it was obscene." Williams added that it was the policy of the department to combat graffiti in all city parks. She continued, "They are destroying public property, which is, by the way, illegal."

## Kowalski

Continued from page 3

will be a hearing because it will be public," she commented, saying that her opponents "are not going to like what they hear on the stand."

"The professional people will say, 'There's no doubt where Sharon considers home — in St. Cloud [Minn.] with Karen,'" said Thompson. "They'll say, 'there's no doubt she's gay.'"

In short, she said, she has complete confidence that the facts of the case are in her favor.

For instance, said Thompson, there is evidence showing that Kowalski suffered physical setbacks while at the Hibbings nursing home that the Kowalskis favor. According to a medical report, Kowalski's legs had contracted, a sign that she wasn't getting enough therapy. "The bottom line is that I'm going to be appointed guardian," Thompson said.

Rosemary Dempsey, vice-president for action at the National Organization for Women (NOW), agreed with Thompson that the weight of the facts was overwhelming. "The story is its own best evidence," she told GCN. Dempsey added, however, that she thought the legal proceedings themselves would be a burden for everyone involved. "It's a two-sided thing," she said. "Financially it's very negative." Dempsey estimated that the hearing would cost Thompson \$20,000. Along with Thompson, Dempsey also disputed that the hearing was legally necessary, whatever political benefits it might bring. "It's just another hurdle set up by the legal system," she commented.

Thompson, who said she was not yet sure how to raise the money for the hearing, pointed out that the whole legal battle to date has diverted money and energy from Kowalski herself, saying, "Every dollar spent on legal fees could have been directly spent on Sharon."

In the meantime, though, Thompson said she was trying to make sure she had enough energy to approach the October pre-hearing meeting. "I'm really tired of fighting," she said

—filed from Boston

## Conference

Continued from page 7

is critical that there are strong white voices taking an anti-racist position."

"It is one of my most dearly held dreams to participate in a multi-racial, multi-cultural feminist movement," said white lesbian activist Barbara Schulman. "We are learning how to talk to each other. That's part of the work of the conference. We're too frequently ghettoized in our own circles."



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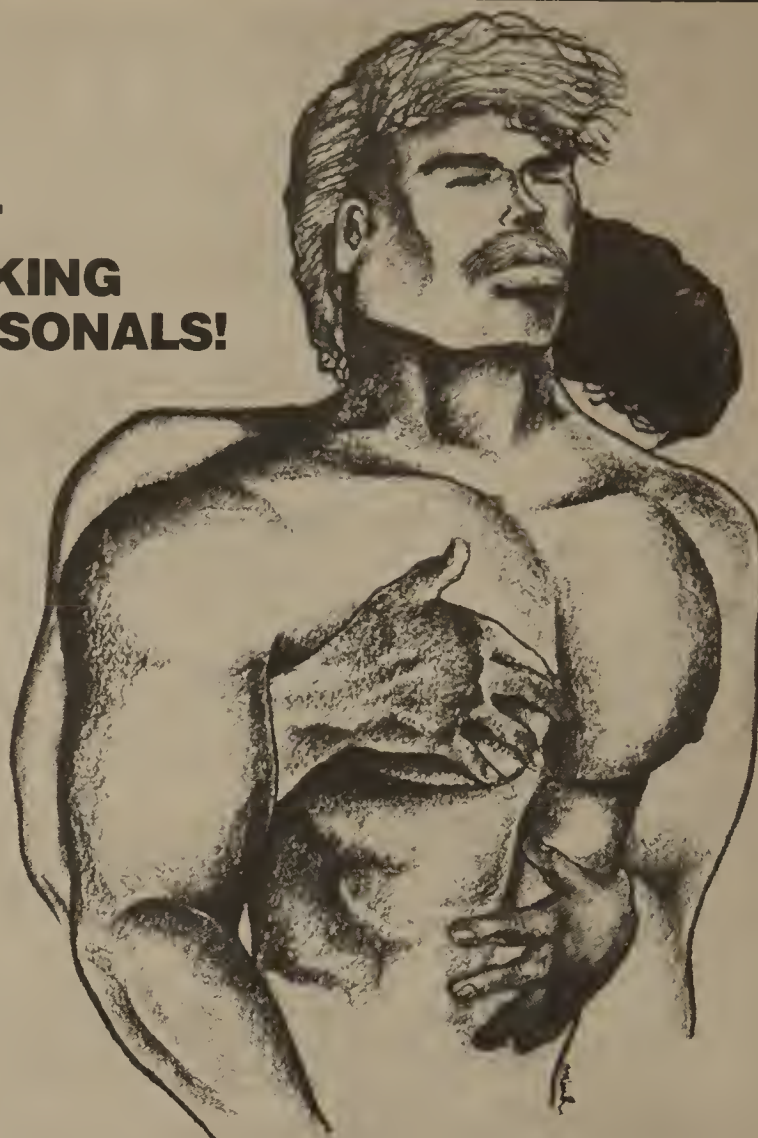
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I had a lover for 2 yrs when I started all of this mess. We decided together that I would do the time for both of us and she would take care of me and be there for me when I got out. Well she did it for a year and then got someone else to move in. So here I am and I sure would appreciate someone to write to. I'm in a year long drug and alcohol program and it's really great. Dolores CORALLAZZO, 19981-044, 3301 Leestown Rd, Lexington KY 40511.



I would like someone to write to for friends I have AIDS and no one likes me here. I am very lonely and do not write very well. I will write to anyone inside prison or outside. Please, someone, write. Francis H. ANKER, 494519, Box 747, Starke FL 32091.

I'm fairly handsome and into most sports and bodybuilding, and hope to meet some people and possibly build a solid friendship. Please no head games. Dan VARNUM, 163509, 1012 W. Columbia (4-B-19), Farmington MO 63640.

Macho type, seeking all friends. If you've got a problem or need advice, share it with me. Gary Carver, Rt 1, Box 169, Marion NC 28752.

I'm 32, and from Yugoslavia. I love running and soccer. I'm looking for a friend who dresses in drags and shares photos and reality. Amidi M. ZUBERI, 050898, Box 500 E, Olustee FL 32072

Gay, Black male, 34, full beard, looking for sincere, openminded person with which to exchange hot letters. George JOHNSON, 90A 4631, Box 367-B, Dannemora NY 12929

I'm Black, 21, and want to be loved. I was porn centerspread for Blackhawks Vol. 2, No. 2 and I'm not into being girly nor do I seek girly types. Seek correspondence with the Wall St. type. Shamont SAPP, AS 1078, Drawer A, Old Rt 22, Cresson PA 16630.

I'm about 8 months from freedom. I would like it very much if you would help me find a friend of any kind with your penpal ads. Thank you, Michael SIMMONS, 79019, CCR, LA State Prison, Angola LA 70712. Lonely 36 yr old gay man, sensitive, loving, in search of another who is interested in a sincere relationship. Can write prisoners too. Charlse FITZGERALD, 114885, Box 1000, Craigsville VA 24430.

I'm a 35 yr old gay prisoner who would appreciate a listing in your penpal section. I can't write other prisoners. Thank you in advance, Edwin WILLIAMS, 145702, Box 97, McAlester OK 74502.

GM desires penpals from the free world. Some of my interests include letter writing, the outdoors, music and computers and electronics. Robert GRAHAM, 83219-012, 3600 Guard Rd, Lompoc CA 93436.

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## 15 SATURDAY

**Boston ♦ Symposium and Closing Reception: "The Emperor's New Clothes."** Photographic Resource Center at B.U. \$3 members, \$5 non-members. 602 Comm. Ave. 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 353-0700.

**Salem ♦ North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance Community Potluck Dinner.** Bring a main dish (last name A-F), salad or vegetable (G-L), appetizer (M-R), or dessert (S-Z). Grace Church, 385 Essex Street. 6:30 p.m. Info: (508) 745-3848.

**Boston ♦ Country Western Dance.** Free dance lessons, free admission. Boston Living Center, YWCA 7th floor, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. to midnight. Info: 236-1012.

**Boston TV ♦ PrideTime Travels: "Gay Key West Revisted"** — with Jim Voltz and Cynthia Pape. Boston cable channels A3 and A8. 7:30 p.m.

**Henniker, NH ♦ Fall Dance.** The NH Citizens' Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights. Cash bar, DJ. \$6. Pat's Peak. 7:30 p.m.

**Boston ♦ A new group for Gay Italians.** Room 203, the Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: Joe 227-5363.

**Boston ♦ Catie Curtis and Kathy Phipps at Obsessions.** Wheelchair accessible. 132 Portland St., near North Station. Info: 523-4725.

## 16 SUNDAY

**Mariboro ♦ WOBBLES** — apple-picking in Ashby. (WOBBLES = West of Boston Lesbians.) Info: Janis, (508) 386-7737.

**Watertown ♦ GLOW Back to School Potluck.** (GLOW = Gays and Lesbians of Watertown.) 7 p.m. Info: Becky 395-4664 or Amy (508) 651-1066.

## 18 TUESDAY

**Boston ♦ Boston Bisexual Men's Network.** A meeting to determine the future of the BBMN. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-6683.

**Cambridge ♦ Comm. to Organize Cambridge/Somerville Chapter of NOW.** MIT Bldg. 4, 77 Mass Ave, Room 145. 7 p.m. Info: Patsy 628-9704.

**Boston ♦ AIDS ACTION Volunteer Orientation.** Slide show and question period. Info: Giulia Norton 437-6200x269.

**Cambridge ♦ Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz Lessons for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends.** beginner, level 1. Week 3 of 4. YMCA at Central Sq., 820 Mass. Ave. 8 to 9 p.m. Info: 859-9455.

## 19 WEDNESDAY

**Boston ♦ Orientation to AAC Supports and Services.** An overview of the services AIDS Action Committee provides to seropositive and asymptomatic people, to clients, and to their caretakers. AAC Room, 131 Clarendon St. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Repeats 9/27. Please pre-register: 437-6200 x328.

**Boston ♦ New England Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans General Meeting.** The Center, 338 Newbury St. 7:30 p.m. Info: Cliff 723-8127.

**Boston ♦ Stand Up For Your Love Rights.** Part of the FCHC Living Well Series. 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. 332 Newbury St. Info: Paul 267-0900.

## 20 THURSDAY

**Jamaica Plain ♦ Ballroom Dance for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends.** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz (beginner, level 1). 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.: Cha Cha, Mambo, and Samba (beginner, level 1). 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Tango, Rumba, and Merengue (beginner, level 2). Week 3 of 4. Firehouse Arts Center, 659 Centre St. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info: 859-9455.

**Boston ♦ HCHP Patient Advocacy Union.** For Harvard Comm. H.P. concerned about HIV and AIDS healthcare. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon, 7th fl. 7 p.m. Info: 864-9596.

**Jamaica Plain ♦ Catie Curtis and Zoe Lewis at Crone's Harvest.** Acoustic folk. \$5. 761 Centre St. 8 p.m. Info: 983-9530.

## 21 FRIDAY

**Cambridge ♦ The International AIDS Memorial Quilt: See It and Understand.** 1000 panels, many from New England. Free. Wheelchair accessible. Johnson Athletic Center of MIT. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Info: 451-9003.

**Boston ♦ New Board Game Group.** First meeting:

"informal and fun." The Center, 338 Newbury St. 6 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

**Boston ♦ The Center Film Series: "The Children's Hour."** Lillian Helman's 1962 drama about a child's accusation of lesbianism against two teachers and its fatal consequences. 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

## 22 SATURDAY

**Boston ♦ Bicycling Lesbians Around Boston:** to the North Shore. Rain date 9/23. Info: Kathy 625-6478.

**Keene, NH ♦ Lesbian Fall Conference.** Monadnock Area Womyn. Lunch and child care available. \$10 requested. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Info: Marty (603) 357-5757.

**Cambridge ♦ "90,000 AIDS Deaths: Love Lights the Night."** Candlelight remembrance walk. Bring a picture of your loved one. Begins at AIDS Memorial Quilt, Johnson Athletic Center, M.I.T. 8 p.m. Info: 859-7635.

**Jamaica Plain ♦ Traditional New England Contra and Square Dances.** Lisa Greenleaf, caller. Band: Nantucket Sound. \$6. First Church of Jamaica Plain, Centre and Eliot Streets. 8 to 11 p.m. (beginners' lessons 7:30). Info: Janet 522-2216, Phil 729-9206, or Scott 536-2014.

**Boston ♦ Triangles: A Clean and Sober Dance** for the Lesbian and Gay Community. Sponsored by Boston Sound Machine. \$5. YMCA, 140 Clarendon. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Info: 846-9061.

## 23 SUNDAY

**New Hampshire ♦ Hiking in Southern Presidential.** Chiltern Mt. Club. 10 mile hike above the treeline. Info: Mike (603) 644-7658.

**Salem ♦ NSGLA Singles Fest Picnic.** Bring your own picnic; couples also welcome. Forest River Park overlooking Salem Harbor. Noon. Info: (508) 745-3848.

**Dorchester ♦ Todd and Michael's Silent Movie Night:** Douglas Fairbanks action comedies. 7 p.m. Info: 288-0391.

## 24 MONDAY

**Cambridge ♦ Gay and Lesbian Academic Study Seminar at MIT.** Info: Ed 547-9487 or Waverly 524-9250.

**Boston ♦ Ballroom Dance for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends.** 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.: Lambada and Dirty Dancing (beginner, level 1). 8:15 to 9:30 p.m.: Swing Intensive (beginner, level 1). Week 3 of 3. UMass Boston, 250 Stuart Street. Info: 859-9455.

**Cambridge TV ♦ PrideTime Travels: "Gay Key West Revisted"** — with Jim Voltz and Cynthia Pape. Cambridge Cable Channel 19. 7 p.m.

**Arlington ♦ Second Animation Celebration.** Included are early Simpsons cartoons. The Celebration runs 9/24-9/27. The Regent Theatre. 7 Medford St. 5pm, 7pm, 9:15pm. \$4. For more info 643-1198.

## 25 TUESDAY

**Boston ♦ "Your Medical Provider and You: Building a Cooperative Relationship."** FCHC Living Well Series. 338 Newbury St. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Pre-register: Paul 267-0900.

**Boston ♦ The Center Reading.** Readings by local authors Jonathan Strong, Marcie Hershman, and Kim Vaeth. The Center, 338 Newbury St. room 203. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

**Cambridge ♦ Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz Lessons for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends.** Beginner Level 1. Week 4 of 4. YMCA at Central Sq., 820 Mass. Ave. 8 to 9 p.m. Info: 859-9455.

## 26 WEDNESDAY

**Boston ♦ Greater Boston Business Council.** Socialize with other lesbian and gay professionals. \$5 admission to help defray costs. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Refreshments 6 to 7 p.m.; presentation by John Nicoli, VP Fundraising for the Center, and Ann Sanders, Mayor Flynn's liaison to the Lesbian and Gay Community, 7 to 8 p.m. Info: 695-1634.

**Boston ♦ New Group for Lesbian and Bisexual Women Graduate Students.** First meeting. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 6 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

**Boston ♦ Vote No on Question 3!** Lesbians and gays interested in working to defeat the CLT referendum are invited. Boston City Hall Room 801 (enter through City Hall rear doors). 7 p.m. Info: Gay and Lesbian Labor Activists Network 522-5448.

**Boston ♦ Coming Out Group — First Meeting.** The Center, 338 Newbury St., room 202K. Sign up: 247-2927.

## 27 THURSDAY

**Boston ♦ Orientation to AAC Supports and Services.** An overview of the services AIDS Action Committee provides to seropositive and asymptomatic



EARLY DRAWINGS OF BART AND HOMER BY MATT GROENING

people, to clients, and to their caretakers. Boston Living Center Library. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Please pre-register: 437-6200 x328.

**Boston ♦ Wholistic Health: A Way of Life: "Yin and Yang."** \$5. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon St., 7th fl. 6 to 8 p.m. Info and registration: 267-0900.

## 28 FRIDAY

**Boston ♦ The Center Film Series: "Andre's Mother"** — Screening and Play Reading. Drama exploring the relationship between a gay man's mother and his lover, both dealing with his AIDS death. Screening preceded by a dramatic reading of the short play version. 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

**Brookline ♦ Kol Nidre.** Am Tikva, Boston's Community of Lesbian and Gay Jews. Handicap accessible. Brookline H.S., 115 Greenough St. (Brookline Hills T). 8 p.m. Donation requested: \$20 members, \$30 non-members, includes all three High Holiday Services. Reservations required. Donations and reservation requests: Am Tikva, P.O. Box 11, Cambridge 02238 to be received by 9/15. Info: 782-8894.

## SUNDAYS

**Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show,** WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and gay men.

**Boston ♦ BAGLY Drop-In Center.** St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. Info: (800) 42BAGLY.

**Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club.** Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

**Boston ♦ AMALGM Monthly Men's Meeting.** (AMALGM = Assoc. of Mass. Asian Lesbians and Gay Men.) Last Sunday of each month. The Center, 338 Newbury St., room 202K. Info: 247-2927.

**Boston ♦ ALATEEN Group** open to lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, 22 and under. 338 Newbury Street, rm. 202k. 6pm-7:30 p.m. Info: Dave 629-2518 or Frank 666-8912.

**Beverly ♦ North Shore Lesbian/Gay Parenting Support Group.** Meets 1st Sun. of each month. First Parish Unitarian Church. 225 Cabot St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 593-5252.

**Boston ♦ Gay Narcotics Anonymous.** The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

## MONDAYS

**Boston ♦ Positive Directions.** Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 12:25 p.m. Info: 262-3456.

**Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends.** About 100 people with AIDS and their friends meet every Monday at AIDS ACTION for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AIDS ACTION, 131 Clarendon St. Info: 437-6200.

**Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous.** First Parish Church, Meeting House Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

**Boston ♦ Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights** holds bi-weekly planning meeting. The Center, 338 Newbury Street. 7 p.m. Info: 776-6956.

**Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester.** A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

**Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group.** The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

## TUESDAYS

**Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island.** Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

**Framingham ♦ Framingham Gay and Lesbian Youth Group.** People 22 and under, meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month. Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S. Framingham, MA 01701.

**Boston ♦ Boston Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays.** 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Harriet Tubman House. 6:30 p.m. Info: 825-2610.

**Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston.** The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. Info: 49-ACT UP.

**Boston ♦ Gay Men and Lesbian Support Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics.** Ten-week group beginning 9/4/90. Faulkner Hospital. 7 to 8:30 p.m. weekly. Intake interview required. Info: 522-5800 x1908.

**Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ Gay/Bisexual Men and Their Significant Others.** Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

**Arlington ♦ Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** meets on the second Tuesday of every

month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 547-2440 or (508) 562-5807.

**Boston ♦ Lesbian and Gay Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals.** No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 266-0628.

**Boston ♦ Buddy Program Orientation, AIDS ACTION Committee.** Volunteers needed to provide emotional and practical support to AAC clients on a one-to-one basis. Interested persons should fill out an application and attend orientation and training. Orientation meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. AIDS ACTION offices, 131 Clarendon St. 7:30 p.m. Info 437-6200 x450.

**Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston** meet 1st and 3rd Tues. of the month. Lindemann Center, 2nd fl. 8-10 p.m. 742-7897.

**Cambridge ♦ Women For Sobriety,** a self help group for women recovering from addictions. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30 p.m. 354-8807.

## WEDNESDAYS

**Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY).** Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6 p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30 p.m. 523-7363 or 1-800-42BAGLY.

**Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon** with child care, wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

**Springfield ♦ Names Project Meeting.** New chapter with weekly quilting meetings. All welcome. Frontier. 19 Pearl St. 7-10 p.m. Info: (413) 788-7459

**Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area Gay and Lesbian Youth.** Open to gay and bisexual youth 21 and under. Meets first and third Wednesday each month at United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7 p.m. Info: (508) 755-0005.

**Boston ♦ Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics.** Mass. General Hospital. 7:30 p.m. Info: Marge 259-1559.

**Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ who are in Substance Abuse Recovery.** Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

**Boston ♦ Coming Out Support Group.** At the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 338 Newbury St. Second and fourth week of each month, starting 9/26. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

## THURSDAYS

**Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

**Boston ♦ Names Project Quilting Bee** — for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Sewing supplies and support provided. Arlington Street Church (use Boylston Street entrance). 6 to 9 p.m. Info 451-9003.

**Boston ♦ The Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.** Meets every Thursday. The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 828-3039.

**Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About.** A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

**Boston ♦ The Group.** Discussion and social hour. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 266-1129.

## FRIDAYS

**Boston ♦ GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party.** Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. GCN, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. Info: 426-4469.

## SATURDAYS

**Boston ♦ Frontrunners.** Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers complimentary. 10 a.m. Also: Tues. 12:15 p.m. at MHC; Wed. 6:45 p.m. at Hatch Shell. Info: 282-0013.

**Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group.** Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

**Boston ♦ Pink Flamingos.** For TV/TS of New England. Every Saturday, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd fl. Info: 247-2927.

## ONGOING

**Boston ♦ AAC "Dancing in Time" (Registration).** Register now and begin collecting pledges for a five-hour dance-a-thon to benefit AIDS ACTION Committee. Hynes Convention Center Ballroom. September 30. 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Registration or more info: 266-6906.



**Pump Up the Volume.** With Christian Slater, Ellen Greene, Samantha Mathis, Mimi Kennedy, Scott Paulin. Written and directed Allan Moyle. At Loew's Copley Place, Boston and at theaters nationally.

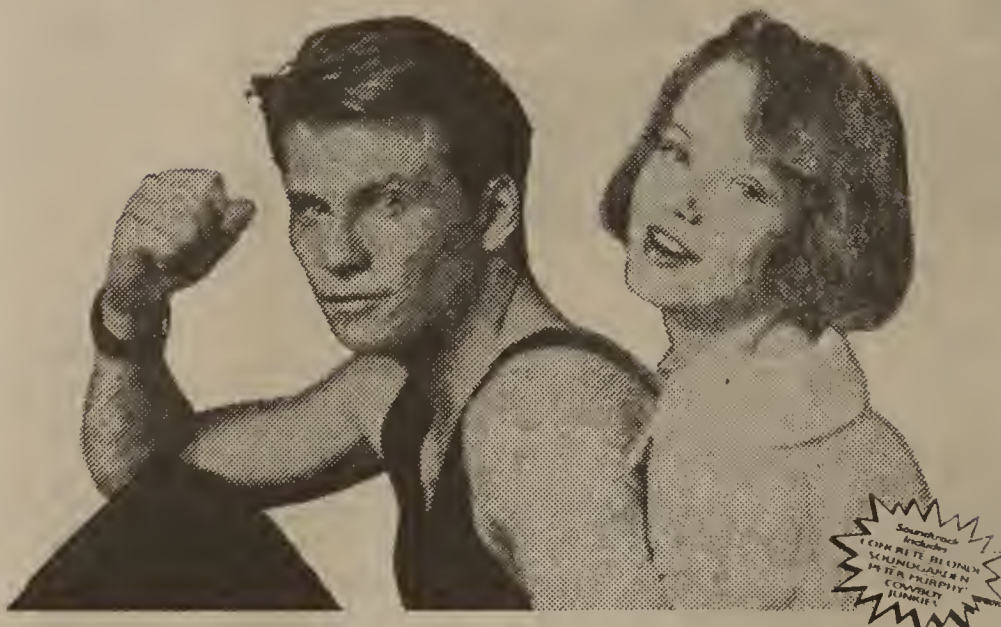
By Christopher Wittke

Allan Moyle's new film *Pump Up the Volume* is a quirky tribute to the nerd in all of us. It is also a utopian vision of a high school world in which the kids will have their say over the milquetoast sell-outs who bore and/or raised them. And they will have their say by any means necessary — even if it means taking over the radiowaves illegally to do so.

Christian Slater plays Mark Hunter, a high school student who goes by the name of "Happy Harry Hardon" when he pushes his short-wave radio transmissions into the FM band and broadcasts a regular show of his own. Meanwhile, his yupwardly mobile parents worry that the family's move to the western U.S. has rendered their son incapable of establishing new friendships. And while it is true that Mark is socially awkward and inarticulate in school, preferring as he does to read a book on the stairwell over interacting with his fellow teens at lunch, the fact of the matter is that "Mark" is merely Harry's Clark Kent.

Hunter's parents (Mimi Kennedy and Scott Paulin) remain remarkably unaware that their son is an underground celebrity to all the kids he barely communicates with during the day. At night, when he sits half-naked in the cellar and groans the sexual frustration of adolescence into his microphone to all of the teenagers within his limited radio-signal range, Happy Harry Hardon taps a major artery in the angst-filled hearts of his peers. He talks about things that they — and we as moviegoers — don't hear often. For instance, when was the last time you heard straightforward discussion of masturbation — without the titters — emanating from the screen of your local multi-plex? How about several mentions of cock rings?

Harry is essentially the obverse of the teenage nihilist character Slater played to critical acclaim in the cult film *Heathers*. The difference this time around is that Slater's character always maintains some semblance of hope, even if it is only because he recog-



Christian Slater and Samantha Mathis from *Pump Up the Volume*

nizes the certainty of hopelessness and accepts this as a personal and communal challenge. Harry's stirring monologues (punctuated by decidedly non-mainstream choices of music) do actually manage to get the kids in his school to talk about the fucked-up state of their world and the choices they are being programmed to make.

Sparks fly, of course, the minute the evil principal and stodgy teachers (who are only concerned about Humphrey High's cumulative SAT scores) get a whiff of Harry. The student body starts trading tapes of previous broadcasts and paying tribute to the anonymous d.j. by quoting him in spray paint on school property. Happy Harry eventually becomes the unwitting focal point in a tragic teenage suicide case and the FCC zooms in to uncover the upstart and use him as a scapegoat.

Naturally, a fellow student named Nora (Samantha Mathis in the Molly Ringwald role) uncovers Harry's secret identity long before the hapless adults. As the feds close in on the pair, it looks as if Harry will be silenced forever and the kids will no longer have the chance to talk about a revolution.

Writer/director Moyle's teenage world is a terrific one, a logical moviemaking step in the post-John (*The Breakfast Club*, *Pretty in Pink*) Hughes era. The adults are all ridiculous parodies, as adults so often are — except for the English teacher (it's always the English teachers who are the only cool ones, isn't it?) played with panache by the too-great-for-words Ellen (Little Shop of Horrors) Greene.

Moyle's depictions of teenagers are almost always three dimensional and pretty much on the money, although there is more cross-

clique harmony than I recall there being in high school. He shows us how a united front of young people could really change things, thereby exposing the need for adult society to keep the kids divided and conquered: the better to perpetuate mediocrity, my dear.

*Pump Up the Volume* is also not afraid to look squarely at emerging teen sexuality, without the leering-boy attitudes of most films aimed at teenagers like the *Porky's* genre. The relationship between Harry and Nora is one of the only interesting (and emotionally developed) ones to come out of a summer film this year.

While watching *Pump Up the Volume* I was amazed that such an anti-establishment movie was produced by 1990's mainstream Hollywood, smack dab in the middle of the Reagan-Bush era. Yet, I was also thinking, "If this movie was as brave as it thinks it is, it would at least mention the existence of a gay or lesbian student somewhere along the way." Well, hand Allan Moyle a medal for bravery! Happy Harry does actually converse on the air with a young gay man who's relatively secure in his sexuality — if somewhat depressed by the way he's treated by his classmates. (Ah-ha, they don't all get along!)

I'll admit that I was sort of nervous watching the scene, holding my breath and hoping that Harry wasn't going to turn into a junior Howard Stern and indulge in some on-air, anti-gay, verbal abuse. After all, this Harry is a het teenager and what better way to show you're one of the guys than to call somebody a fag and publicly humiliate him? But Happy Harry isn't just one of the guys and though I won't reveal the exact way in which this scene is resolved, I will recommend *Pump Up the Volume*.

In fact, I would even suggest that lesbian and gay youth groups take a field trip to see it. Perhaps *Pump Up the Volume* will do for contemporary gay teens what the existence of the gay characters in *A Chorus Line* did for me when I was 15 — validate their existence by telling them they're not alone and that they have a right to be unhappy when people treat them like shit for who they are. You won't find a message that needs to be pumped up more loudly than that.

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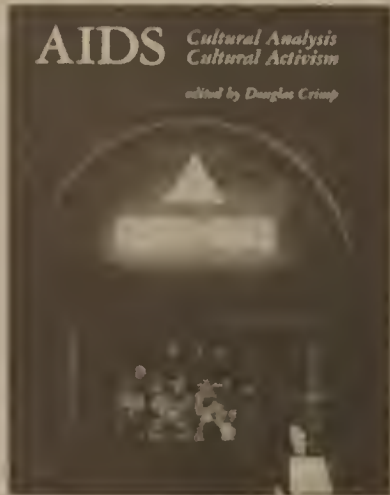
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SEE IT AND UNDERSTAND: The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt  
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